

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 18, and further including ~~the step of~~ collecting information on said purchases made by said entities via said computer based market center system and on quotes received directly from said suppliers by said entities and analyzing said information at said computer based market center system.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~said step of~~ analyzing said information comprises analyzing said information to determine if any of said quotes were for goods or services having a negotiated price and if so, whether said quotes for that good or service were at prices more favorable than said negotiated price for that good or service.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, and further including ~~the step of~~ renegotiating said negotiated price for one of said goods and services when results of analyzing said information indicate that a more favorable price than the negotiated price for that good or service is being offered.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 18 wherein said plurality of entities having a common predetermined relationship comprise an original equipment manufacturer and its dealerships.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 18 wherein said plurality of entities having a common predetermined relationship comprise a franchise.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 18 wherein said plurality of entities having a common predetermined relationship comprise individuals that are members of a club.

9—11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 18 wherein information concerning purchases made by and quotes obtained by said entities via said computer based market center system are stored in a database.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]], 18 further including the steps of a host organization paying said suppliers for purchases made from said suppliers via said computer based market center system by said entities and said host organization billing said entities for said purchases.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, further including the step of said host organization operating said computer based market center system.

15—16 (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The purchasing system of claim 15 19 wherein said ~~purchasing system includes means for analyzing computer based market center is operative to analyze~~ transactions to determine if any involve purchases at prices more advantageous than the price supplier prices for said goods/services stored in said database.

18. (new) A method of procuring goods and services through a computer based market center system having a website accessible by a plurality of entities via the Internet, the method comprising:

arranging with a plurality of suppliers, each having an Internet website, to participate in offering goods and services to the entities via the website of the market center system;

negotiating with at least a subset of said suppliers prices for their respective goods and services at which said entities can purchase the respective goods and services;

allowing said entities to place orders with any of the at least a subset of suppliers for respective goods and services via purchaser websites and the market

center website; and allowing said entities an option of obtaining via purchaser websites and the market center website a price quotation from any of the at least a subset of suppliers.

19. (new) A purchasing system for procuring goods and services by a plurality of entities having a common predetermined relationship, the purchasing system comprising:

a computer based market center having a market center website accessible by the entities via the Internet;

a plurality of supplier Internet websites, each accessible by the entities via the market center website; and

a database storing information concerning supplier prices and transactions entered into between the entities and suppliers associated with the supplier websites via the Internet.